

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Tier I – 20 weeks
Tier II – 13 + 1 weeks
Tier III – 13 weeks

On December 19, 2009, President Obama signed new federal legislation which extended the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program to February 28, 2010. This is the fifth legislation affecting the EUC program.

20 weeks of Tier I EUC. The Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, signed by President Bush on June 30, 2008, provided up to 13 weeks of federally funded EUC benefits in all states to unemployed individuals who collected all regular benefits or whose benefit claims were expired. The first payable week is week ending July 12, 2008. The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 expanded the EUC program up to 7 additional weeks for a total of 20 weeks. The first payable week for the 7 additional weeks is week ending November 29, 2008.

14 weeks of Tier II EUC. The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 enacted on November 21, 2008, also authorized a second tier of 13 additional weeks in states with high unemployment. With the total unemployment rate climbing to more than 6 % in the first quarter of 2009, Hawaii triggered on to Tier II. The first payable week for Tier II is week ending May 9, 2009. You must exhaust Tier I benefits by February 27, 2010 to be eligible for Tier II benefits. The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 provided one additional week on Tier II making a total of 14 weeks payable and removed the high unemployment trigger for this level.

13 weeks of Tier III EUC. The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act which is effective November 8, 2009 also added a third tier of 13 additional weeks in states with a 13-week insured unemployment rate of at least 4% or a 3-month average total unemployment rate of at least 6%. You must exhaust Tier II benefits by February 27, 2010 to be eligible for Tier III benefits.

6 weeks of Tier IV EUC. NOT AVAILABLE IN HAWAII. The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act also added a fourth tier for states with a 13-week insured unemployment rate of at least 6% or a 3-month average total unemployment rate of at least 8.5%. Hawaii EUC claimants do not qualify for this new level.

Remaining balances on existing claims. After February 28, 2010, individuals with balances remaining at their respective Tier level may continue to be eligible for their remaining Tier entitlement until the week ending July 31, 2010. No EUC benefits can be paid for any week that begins after July 31, 2010.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EUC?

To be eligible, individuals must meet the following requirements:

1. You must be currently unemployed and apply for EUC by February 27, 2010. The EUC program ends February 28, 2010 unless Congress acts to extend the program. No new EUC applications will be accepted for weeks of unemployment ending after February 27, 2010.
2. You had a claim for regular benefits with a benefit year ending May 1, 2007 or later which has exhausted or has expired.
3. You must have no rights to regular benefits or any other compensation under federal law and not receiving benefits under the Canada unemployment law.
4. You must have one of the following in the base period of your last regular unemployment insurance claim:
 - ☐ 20 weeks of full-time insured employment or
 - ☐ Wages equal to one and one-half times your high quarter wages or
 - ☐ Wages equal to 40 times the weekly benefit amount on your last regular claim.
5. You must satisfy all eligibility requirements of the Hawaii Employment Security Law.
6. You must be registered in HireNet Hawaii and keep your resume posted online. You must continue to make 3 job contacts each week.
7. You must not have a disqualification or ineligibility still in effect.

In addition to the above, you must exhaust each Tier as of the week ending February 27, 2010 to be eligible for the next Tier.

HOW DO I FILE FOR EUC?

1. **New EUC Claims - Exhaustees of Regular UI benefits.**
For individuals who exhaust regular UI benefits, notices are being mailed out weekly with instructions to report in-person to a local claims office with your notice or to call Hawaii Tele-Claim and apply for EUC by phone. The maximum benefit amount on your new EUC claim will be 20 times your weekly benefit amount. The last day to apply for a new EUC claim is February 26, 2010.
2. **Current EUC filers - Claimants who have not exhausted 20 weeks of Tier I or 33 weeks of Tier II.**
If you are currently filing EUC, you will be eligible for 14 additional weeks of Tier II EUC if you exhaust the first 20 weeks of Tier I EUC benefits before February 28, 2010. You will be eligible for 13 additional weeks of Tier III EUC if you exhaust Tier I and Tier II benefits before February 28, 2010. If your

maximum benefit amount has not been automatically increased, please report to your local claims office or call Hawaii Tele-Claim to request another extension.

3. EUC claimants who have already exhausted 33 weeks of Tier I and Tier II need to reopen existing EUC claims.

If you have exhausted 33 weeks of Tier I and Tier II benefits and are still unemployed, you will need to reopen your existing EUC claim. To file by phone, call Hawaii Tele-Claim using your same PIN number.

To file for new or to reopen EUC claims by phone. Call Hawaii Tele-Claim (toll-free) at:

643-5555 (if you are in Hawaii) or
1-877-215-5793 (if you are out-of-state)

Sunday through Thursday 6:30 am to 12 midnight (HST) and
Friday 6:30 am to 4:30 pm.

To file weekly or bi-weekly claim certifications by phone. Call Hawaii Tele-Claim (toll-free) at:

643-2222 (if you are in Hawaii) or
1-877-215-5791 (if you are out-of-state)

To file in person: See Local Claim Office locations below.

HONOLULU Claims Office
830 Punchbowl St., Rm 110
PO Box 4090
Honolulu, HI 96812-4090
Ph: 586-8970 or 586-8971
Fax: 586-8980

LIABLE INTERSTATE Unit (out-of-state)
PO Box 4090
Honolulu, HI 96812-4090
Ph: (808) 586-8960
Fax: (808) 586-8980

WAIPAHU Claims Office
94-275 Mokuola St, Rm 301
Waipahu, HI 96797-3369
Ph: 675-0030
Fax: 675-0025

KANEOHE Claims Unit
PO Box 4087
Honolulu, HI 96812-4087
Ph: 586-8970 or 586-8971
Fax: 586-8980

KANEOHE Office
46-005 Kawa St., Ste 205
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Ph: 233-3679

HILO Claims Office
1990 Kinoole St., Ste 101
Hilo, HI 96720-5293
Ph: 974-4086
Fax: 974-4085

KONA Claims office
81-990 Halekii St, Rm 2090
Kealahou, HI 96750
Ph: 322-4822
Fax: 322-4828

MAUI Claims Office
54 South High St., Rm 201
Wailuku, HI 96793
Ph: 984-8400
Fax: 984-8444

MOLOKAI Claims Office
55 Makaena St, Rm 4
Kaunakakai, HI 96748-1858
Ph: 553-1750
Fax: 553-1753

KAUAI Claims Office
3-3100 Kuhio Hwy, Rm C-12
Lihue, HI 96766
Ph: 274-3043
Fax: 274-3046